
Government News

The Noxious Weed Act of 1974 gives the Agriculture Department authority to regulate noxious weeds at port on entry. Proposed regulations announced recently enumerate seven aquatic weeds, two parasitic weeds and 13 terrestrial weeds unknown or not widely distributed in the U. S. Special permits for movement of these weeds into or through the U. S. may only be granted when rigid regulations covering shipment, storage and destruction are adhered to, the American Association of Nurserymen reports.

The aim of the federal Environmental Protection Agency "is not -- and never has been -- to 'get' pesticides," EPA administrator Russell E. Train said recently in a speech to the American Pesticide Control Officials in Washington, D. C. He recommended pesticides be found that affect only specific pests and then break down quickly once their job is done; that combinations of natural and chemical control of pests be relied on more; and that growing amounts of municipal and other wastes be utilized to replenish the soil.

Grass seed prices have been extremely depressed since at least 1974, according to Doyle Jacklin, Vaughan-Jacklin Seed Co., Spokane, Wash. He spoke earlier this year at the winter meeting of the American Sod Producers Association in Clearwater Beach, Fla. and said that at the time most prices were below the cost of production. The reasons for this were the depressed economy, low housing starts and record seed production. This, coupled with the fact that last year was a boom year for grain, soybean and vegetable crop seeds makes the situation grim for grass seed growers in some cases. Jacklin says price recovery will be slow and gradual through next year for his industry. He also said no new varieties will be planted, but some earlier plantings will come to harvest later this year.

A new agricultural safety standard from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration went into effect June 7. The new ruling deals with guarding and shielding of moving parts. It applies primarily to manufacturers, requiring a variety of guards and shields be provided after that date.

In the chlordane/heptachlor situation, the Environmental Protection Agency will pursue the recall of the products despite Velsicol Chemical Corporation's insistence the recall is illegal. The EPA answered a letter from the Chicago company by saying the recall is not mandatory, and that this is widely known in the industry. Velsicol says it is doubtful the EPA will take specific legal actions to enforce the recall, but if they should, the company will take necessary legal steps "to protect our rights."

The Justice Department has charged that Union Carbide Corp. has illegally restrained the sale of carbaryl insecticides in a civil antitrust suit filed in San Francisco. Carbaryl is marketed under the trade name Sevin. The suit alleges Union Carbide, Salinas, Calif. prohibits purchasers of carbaryl from selling it in its pure form and requires them to formulate only those carbaryl insecticides Union Carbide specifies.